



# **LINCOLN CHAFEE**

## **U.S. SENATOR**

### **RHODE ISLAND**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **CHAFEE ANNOUNCES 1.6 MILLION FOR CHILDREN'S VACCINATIONS**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** –U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee announced today that the Rhode Island Department of Health has been awarded a grant award totaling \$1,643,054 for the Immunization and Vaccines for Children Grants program. The award, distributed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, will be used to provide vaccinations for low-income children across Rhode Island, as part of the RIte Care program. All forms of immunizations and vaccinations are made available under this program, including those for influenza, an issue of generating considerable concern in recent months.

“The exceptional work of the Rhode Island Department of Health, in conjunction with the RIte Care program and others has propelled our immunization and vaccines for children program to the forefront nationally,” Senator Chafee said. “I am pleased that this money has been made available to continue this excellent program which ensures that over 80 percent of our state’s children receive vaccinations, regardless of financial status. In this time of uncertainty concerning the availability of flu vaccinations, I am happy to hear that Rhode Island has been provided these additional funds,” he continued.

With assistance from private organizations, federal agencies, health insurance providers, and others, Rhode Island has achieved one of the highest rates of childhood vaccinations in the country. In 2001 the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention awarded Rhode Island the highest rank in the country for full vaccination coverage among children aged 19 to 35 months – the most critical age for immunizations against many serious diseases. Rhode Island has continued to be ranked at the top of the nation in the years since.

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